Rural infrastructure development under Bharat Nirman

2665. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN. Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Bharat Nirman, the UFA Government's mega flagship programme for rural infrastructure development, is proving to be unsustainable and tee scheme is offering short-term opportunities to a few contractors and may get stuck in a low-development trap;

(b) in what manner Public Private Partnership Appraisal Committee (PPPAC) has been helpful in developing rural infrastructure or it ha? been Instrumental in delaying the development the details of projects undertaken; and.

(c) the tangible achievements of pubiio private partnership in the first three phases of Bharat Nirman scheme and the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRl M. V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) No, Sir. Bharat Nirman programme for improving the rural infrastructure is the cornerstone of the Government's policy. For 2007-08, Rs. 24,603 crore has been provided in the budget which marks an increase of 31.6 per cent over the outlay for 2006-07.

(b) and (c) The Public Private Partnership Appraisal Committee (PPPAC) has not received any proposal which relaies to development of rural infrastructure under Bharat Nirman.

Five point plan of PM

2667. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Prime Minister outlined five areas i.*e.* revitalization of rural economy, improved delivery of public services, improved management of urban areas, making our financial system more inclusive alongwith being globally integrated and putting in place a viable regulator/ framework that ensures cost effective investment in the infrastructure; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take to meet this five point plan in the next ten years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M. V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) The Prime Minister in an address at the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) in December 2006 emphasized five challenges to engage the country over the next decade. These are: (i) revitalisation of the rural economy, (ii) improved delivery of essential public services, (iii) improved management of urban areas, (iv) preparing financial system for greater inclusion and increased global integration and (v) establishing a regulatory culture to facilitate cost-effective private investment in infrastructure.

(b) For the rural economy the Approach Paper to the Eleventh Five Year Plan aims at achieving a growth rate of 4% in agriculture sector For that there is a focus on improving rural connectivity, scaling up of irrigation potential creation, watershed management, rainwater harvesting and ground water recharge, revitalizatjon of the extension system which links universities and best practices to farmers, etc. The Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) and Accelerated Power Development Reform Programme (APDRP) are being implemented to augment irrigation and power, respectively. Bharat Nirman is a time-bound business plan for action in rural infrastructure over the four-year period (2005-2009). Under Bharat Nirman, action is proposed in the areas of irrigation, rural roads, rural housing, rural water supply, rural electrification and rural telecommunication connectivity. The Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) has been launched for a seven-year period beginning 2005-06. In the area of health, the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) has been set up with the objective of providing accessible, affordable, accountable and effective health care delivery especially to the poor and the vulnerable sections of the society and bridge gaps in health care. In education, the Sarva Siksha Abhiyan (SSA) is being implemented to provide elementary education to ail children in the 6—14 years age group. For global integration of the Indian economy, there has been a progressive reduction in the tariff rates. The Budget for 2007-08 has proposed reduction in the peak customs tariff rate to 10%. A Committee on Infrastructure has been set up under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister with the objective of initiating policies that ensure time-

bound creation of world class infrastructure delivering services matching international standards and developing structures that maximize the role of public-private partnerships in the field of infrastructure.

Non-utilization of fund under Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana

†2668. SHRIMANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that States have not properly utilized and spent the amount so far allocated and released to them since initial year of implementation till date under 'Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana";

(b) if so, details thereof, State-wise and year-wise; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the condition of Bihar is most deplorable where even 25 per cent of amount under this head remains unspent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M. V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) and (b) The Backward Districts Initiative of the Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana (RSVY), launched in the Tenth Plan and now replaced by the Backward Regions Grant Fund, covered 147 districts. The District Plans under RSVY were approved in phases. The initial year of implementation of the District Plans, therefore, varies from district to district. Funds for implementation of the schemes covered by the District Plans are being released based on the progress of the schemes in financial and physical terms. A Statement indicating the funds released to the State Governments for these districts, from 2003-04 to 2006-07, is enclosed. (See below)

(c) The total allocation of Bihar under the Backward Districts Initiative of RSVY is Rs. 945 crore (Rs. 45 crore per district for 21 districts to be released over three years). Against this allocation, an amount of Rs. 525 crore has been released till 31.3.2007against which the State Government has reported an expenditure of Rs. 281 65 crore.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.